

13 APR 2001

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Hideji TAJIMA et al.

Serial No.: United States National Phase  
of PCT/JP99/05648

Filed: Herewith

For: AUTOMATIC SEPARATOR/EXTRACTOR  
AND CONTROL METHOD THEREFOR§  
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Attorney Docket No.: 10287.34

I. A. Filing Date: 13 October 1999

Priority Date: 13 October 1998

Attention: DO/EO/US  
Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

17. (amended) An automatic separator/extractor according to claim 1, wherein in said processing section, an incline angle, incline speed and/or incline timing of said combined incline mechanism, a movement direction and movement amount by said relative movement mechanism, and a drawing speed and/or a drawing timing, are set by said operation/control section based on; the contents or purpose of an indicated process, a shape or size or a nozzle or vessel, the nature of a precipitate or solution and an amount of these and/or a level of these.

20. (amended) An automatic separator/extractor according to claim 18, wherein said extraction section has; a moving means for moving said integration section between a vessel mounted on said conveying means and a vessel or a washing section for pipette tip washing provided apart from said conveying means.